

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-21 and 29-50 are pending. Claims 34-50 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by WO 01/74164. Claims 9, 11-17, and 29-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this reply, Applicants cancel claim 9, amend claim 1, and address the sole rejection.

Support for the Amendment

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 9. No new matter is added by the amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by WO 01/74164.

While not conceding the propriety of the Office's rejection, and only to expedite prosecution of the present claims, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of prior claim 9. As presently amended, independent claim 1 recites a method that involves the cultivation of hair inductive cells in a culture medium that includes prostate epithelial cells and medium conditioned by the prostate epithelial cells. As is acknowledged by the Office (Office Action, p. 3), WO 01/74164 fails to teach or suggest the method of present independent claim 1. The rejection of claims 1, 7, 8, 10, and 18-21 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that present claims 1, 7, 8, 10-21, and 29-33 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

A petition to extend the period for replying for three months, to and including January 22, 2010, is submitted herewith. Applicants authorize the Office to deduct the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for the petition from Deposit Account No. 03-2095. If there are any additional charges, or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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